1st Country Coordinators Meeting

9th March, 2017

Virtual

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CGIAR is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food-secure future. The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock provides research-based solutions to help smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists transition to sustainable, resilient livelihoods and to productive enterprises that will help feed future generations. It aims to increase the productivity of livestock agri-food systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and eggs more available and affordable across the developing world. The Program brings together five core partners: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with a mandate on livestock; the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), which works on forages; the International Center for Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), which works on small ruminants and dryland systems; the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) with expertise particularly in animal health and genetics and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) which connects research into development and innovation and scaling processes.

The Program thanks all donors and organizations who globally supported its work through their contributions to the [**CGIAR system**](http://www.cgiar.org/about-us/our-funders/)

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Minutes of the 1st CRP Leadership Team Country Coordinators

**Present**

In Nairobi: Katie Hamilton, Esther Ndungu, Tom Randolph and Kristina Roesel- ILRI.

by webex: Amos Omore, Augustine Ayantunde, Ben Lukuyu, Emily Ouma, Lucy Lapar, Padmakumar, Rein van der Hoek and Barbara Rischkowsky,

Absent – Udo Rudiger (Tunisia Office representative).

* **Role of focus country teams in Phase 2**
* Livestock & Fish CRP successfully established several country teams during Phase 1
* Focused work in selected countries
* Important for learning what priorities are for research.
* External reviews liked the approach.
* Value chains were housed in own flagship in Phase 1
* Focus countries continue in Phase 2, but no clear agenda, no clear home for country teams as spread out across many flagships; no value chain flagship this time.
* Needs to be clear how to shape it.
* Where do we house them, how will reporting be handled? – still to be discussed
* Value chains (vc) will continue and systems research now added.
* Systems research needs to be defined as we go forward
* System focus or value chains, or both in a given priority country?
* Structure more opportunities
* Country Coordinators need to be more active in defining what CRP doing from country level prospective. How to make work.
* **Confirming countries, leaders**

Ethiopia – Barbara Rischkowsky

Tanzania – Amos Omore

Uganda – Ben Lukuyu

Vietnam – Hung Nguyen

India - Dr Rahman

Burkina Faso – Augustine Ayantunde

Tunisia – Udo Rudiger

Kenya – TBD

* Above list needs reviewing and confirming that list is correct. **Action Point**
* Country Coordinators are now country representatives.
* Mandate of CRP has expanded, not just focus on VCs.
* Systems focus too in this phase.
* Much more open, need someone who has a view of everything happening in country.
* Review assignments and make sure institutes and management committee are satisfied have right people in right places – **Action Point**
* Bilateral funding totals for all the countries needs to be circulated. **Action Point – Esther**.
* List does not capture multi country bilateral projects, for example Gates. Left out.
* Trying to mobilise resources to start research agenda.
* Decision to make: shall we stop working in one country and start in another.
* Bilateral projects are very important, please keep CRP Management Unit and relevant Flagship leaders informed
* Different countries different speeds – need to be clear with management committee, how do we make sure investing in country in the most efficient way. We need to be more strategic. Are we getting the country going or not? If so why not? Shall we stop investing in this country?
* **Priorities for 2017-2018**
  + Strategy and Implementation Plans – attention to research design
    - Strategy important – we need to communicate what we plan to do, and what we are going to generate in outcomes in ‘your’ country.
    - Revisit – due to change mandate of CRP
    - Research quality – cross country design and comparison
    - Perform Site selection standard way, analysis and reports in same way
    - Need to ensure comparison across countries is facilitated
    - Best bet protocol - what are we taking forward and piloting
    - Protocol and rigor while doing that.
    - Build into strategy
    - Important for collaboration e.g. A4NH and site integration
    - Build around ToC
* Roll out M&E
  + - Piloted an approach for monitoring last year.
    - Lessons learnt from Tanzania and Ethiopia
    - Require a reasonable M&E
    - Need to implement – useful for ‘you’ and donors
    - This year the roll out.
* Team Building
  + - What is CRP team in your country: includes those based there and others from flagships who support work in that country
    - Share POWB Activity Sheets – who are your team members, and how much time **Action Point**.
    - How much flexibility can you use bilateral projects to implement CRP strategy.
* Partner landscaping and engagement
  + - Update partner landscaping and engaging in partners.
* CGIAR Country Collaboration (used to be known as Site Integration)
  + - Centres will lead this, i.e. lead centre for a country will assign person to serve as the coordinator.
    - A working group formed, report pending on System principles for pursuing country collaboration.
    - Continue by keeping in touch with whatever groups have been organised
    - Proactively engage with CGIAR leader, and other CRP centre and representatives – share information. Important during Phase 2
    - $5000 allocated for each country by the Livestock CRP– for Country Coordination within your country. In case funds are needed for some activities.
* Resource mobilisation
  + - How to do better? We need ideas.
    - How to add value, and make more successful for implementing country strategy.
* AR4D
  + - We need research and ideas
* Country Support Team
  + - You need support, so plan to provide better support
    - Expectation that country coordinator has skills to do everything well.
    - Have a team to support country team
    - Explicit assignments to do this.
    - Will need your help to figure out how to make this support effective and useful to you
    - Recruiting Performance and Partnership Manager (cross between Pat and Stuart).
    - M&E and supporting your partnership with developing partners – NGOs etc.
    - Communication person –– helping strategy, and management skills *Ewen Le Borgne*
    - Open Access, research quality and protocols– *Jane Poole*
    - Cap Dev – assessments, what progress made – *Iddo Dror*
    - Gender – assessments where we are in your country for gender and next stage - *Nicoline de Haan*
* Integration with A4NH
  + - Sharing of resources
    - Effective integration
    - ***Kristina Roesel*** – identifying opportunities to carry on work in focus countries. Need to clarify how each CRP is contributing and benefiting. Must be happy with situation. Keep Kristina in the loop on what is happening related to public health, food safety.
    - Sharing what A4NH are achieving.
    - Where can we add value – including when doing resource mobilisation, include public health component etc.
    - Disseminate Food Safety and Zoonoses findings through livestock platforms.
    - Work on joint proposals
    - Need to work together effectively.
    - Integrate A4NH into our countries.
* Leadership group and coordination with flagships
  + - CRP structure
      * Program Management Committee
      * Leadership Team – more active this phase
        + Flagship Leaders – Senior scientists
        + Cross Cutting Coordinators – monthly meetings
        + Country Coordinators – every 2 months included
        + Ad hoc meetings
        + Possibly face to face meeting in May
* Next steps.
  + - Program Management Committee to confirm strategy for deciding how to prioritise country activities. **Action Point**.
    - Details how implementing CRP. Not quite outlined.
    - Strategy from proposal to be revisited, updated and agreed upon by Management Committee
    - Please reread and send any comments
    - Planning - what is specific to your country we will pull out from Activity Sheets and see what is happening. **Action Point Esther**
    - Make POWB out of that. Start making team meetings.
    - Reconfirm with team that POWB and deliverables are feasible
    - Perhaps - Preparing case for new countries why they should be priority? Why focus investment – Make business case. Management making a process to be followed for that **Action Point Management Committee**
    - Strategy and Implementation Plan – CRP management unit will organise some meetings once everyone is recruited.
    - Reconfirm focal points for flagships, primary focal point in each country, reconfirming other CRP focal points in ‘your country’.
    - Intentions and Plans was the idea of today’s meeting.
    - **Strategy Plan** - Have to demonstrate impact, focus M&E, given system context. What we want to deliver and be measured on at end of 6 years. Keep focused.